

BPL presents a clear danger to our radio spectrum, which is a critical natural resource. Both the potential and the clear fact of harmful interference have been demonstrated in international trials of BPL (particularly Austria's failure), and serious concern has been shown domestically. As a licensed member of the Amateur service (AD0G), I am very concerned that the spectrum available for personal as well as public service activities will be significantly polluted by BPL.

Industry claims tend to ignore the facts by claiming that power levels for unintentional radiation will be kept low. Amateurs have demonstrated, however, that world-wide communications are routinely possible on only a watt or two of output. With powerlines acting as antennas every few hundred yards or so in any populated area, the blanketing of spurious emissions would clearly effect the usability of the HF spectrum.

A less direct threat BPL presents to the Amateur service (and possibly others) is the possibility of harmful interference experienced by BPL users from licensed radio users. While the legal position may put the Amateur service in the right, as a public relations matter, it is a nightmare. Amateurs routinely fight to maintain spectrum access, antenna privileges, and the continuation of the service in general. If legal and appropriate amateur transmissions routinely interfere with BPL access -- a very real possibility -- the potential for backlash against the valuable Amateur service is substantial.

There are many ways to move signals over wire. If the right wire is used in the right way, problems are minimal. There is only so much space in the radio spectrum, however. Alternatives to BPL vary in practicality. There are, however, alternatives. There are no alternatives for the radio spectrum because there is no other medium available for it. It must be given priority over the commercially attractive but environmentally and socially irresponsible BPL plans.